

MILITARY ROAD FROM FORT UNION TO SANTA FÉ.

[To accompany Bill H. R. No. 200.]

MAY 10, 1860.

Mr. BONHAM, from the Committee on Military Affairs, made the following

REPORT.

The Committee on Military Affairs, to whom was referred a bill to provide for the completion of the military road from Fort Union to Santa Fé, New Mexico, report :

That Captain J. N. Macomb, captain of topographical engineers, March 9, 1858, submitted to General Garland, commanding the department of New Mexico, his estimate for the completion of the said road, from which it appears that Congress, on the 3d of March, 1855, appropriated \$16,000 for this road, and that the sum of \$35,000 is requisite to complete it. He says :

“The fact of the ‘road from Fort Union to Santa Fé’ being a part of the great mail-route from Missouri to the largest settlement in the Territory of New Mexico, and it being the only portion of the route upon which serious natural obstacles to easy transit exist, is deemed of sufficient importance to justify the asking for such a sum as will make the road at least equal, in facility for travelling, to the natural road across the plains, which constitutes the chief portion of the route.”

In a letter of March 11, 1858, addressed to Colonel J. J. Abert, commanding corps of topographical engineers, Washington, D. C., Captain Macomb says :

“The road between Fort Union and this point (Santa Fé) has been carefully examined by me, with the aid of my principal assistant, who has drawn up a careful estimate for perfecting the road, which I hope may be approved and the amount granted.”

Colonel J. J. Abert, chief topographical engineer, in a report to the Secretary of War, of November 1, 1859, says :

“*Military road from Fort Union to Santa Fé.*—The balance of the appropriation has been exhausted in opening the communication between parts of the work previously executed, so that all of the new work is made available, though a narrower road has been adopted for the want of funds.

“There is requisite to complete this road \$35,000.”

Your committee report back the bill with a recommendation that it do pass, and that Captain Macomb's estimates be printed as a part of this report.

MILITARY DEPARTMENT OF NEW MEXICO,
Santa Fé, N. M., March 9, 1858.

GENERAL: For the purpose of carrying out the views of the Hon. Mr. Otero, as expressed to you in his letter of the 19th November, 1857, I would respectfully suggest that he be requested to ask from Congress the appropriation of the following named sums, to wit:

1st. For the completion of the "military road from Fort Union to Santa Fé," in the Territory of New Mexico, as by estimate in detail herewith submitted, \$35,000.

2d. For explorations and surveys to ascertain the most feasible routes for, and the probable expense of, constructing the following named military roads and bridges in the Territory of New Mexico: *Provided*, that such sums as may remain of said appropriations, after paying the expenses of surveys, explorations, and estimates, shall be applied towards the construction of said works respectively, viz:

Military road from Fort Union to Taos, \$10,000.

Military road from Taos to Fort Massachusetts, \$10,000.

Military road from Santa Fé to Fort Stanton, \$20,000.

Military road from Albuquerque to Fort Stanton, \$17,500.

Military road from Albuquerque to Fort Defiance, \$15,000.

3d. The sum of \$10,000 for minute examinations and surveys, and the preparation of estimates for constructing permanent bridges across the Rio Bravo del Norte, at or near the following named points, to wit:

One at or near Fort Massachusetts;

One at or near Cañada;

One at Albuquerque, or at Ysleta; and

One at a suitable point in the county of Doña Ana.

There are doubtless many points in the vicinity of the above-named routes where it is desirable to have some reliable means of furnishing permanent supplies of water, but it may probably be deemed expedient to await the result of the experiments in artesian well-boring (now in progress) before deciding upon the plan for effecting this end.

The fact of the "road from Fort Union to Santa Fé" being a part of the great mail-route from Missouri to the largest settlements in the Territory of New Mexico, and it being the only portion of the route upon which serious natural obstacles to easy transit exist, is deemed of sufficient importance to justify the asking for such a sum as will make the road at least equal in facility for travelling to the natural road across the plains, which constitutes the chief portion of the route.

All of which is respectfully submitted by your most obedient servant,

J. N. MACOMB,
Captain Topographical Engineers.

Brigadier General J. GARLAND,
Commanding Department New Mexico.

*Estimate for the completion of the road from Fort Union to Santa Fé,
New Mexico.*

From Santa Fé to the Arroyo Hondo, five miles and three chains.....	\$1,500
From the Arroyo Hondo to the Rock Corral, four miles and twenty-six chains.....	4,500
From the Rock Corral to El Cañon de Apache, by present main road, four miles and fifty-nine chains, and by trail, which can be improved, two miles and thirty-nine chains.....	8,500
From the mouth of Cañon de Apache to El Arroyo de Pecos, by present road ten miles and seventy-three chains, and by trail, which can be improved, nine miles and sixty-four chains	10,500
From El Arroyo de Pecos to San José, crossing of the Pecos river, eighteen and a half miles	7,500
From San José to Tecalote, fifteen and a half miles.....	6,500
From Tecalote to Las Vegas, eleven miles.....	3,500
From Las Vegas to Fort Union, by one route thirty miles, by another twenty-seven miles.....	4,500
Bridges across the rivers Pecos, Moro, Sapello, and Gallenas, \$1,000 each	4,000
	<hr/>
	51,000
From which deduct amount appropriated for this road by act of 3d March, 1855, No. 58, chapter CLXIX.....	16 000
	<hr/>
Making amount requisite to perfect this road.....	35,000
	<hr/>

Respectfully submitted to General Garland.

J. N. MACOMB,

Captain Topographical Engineers.

SANTA FÉ, *New Mexico*, March 9, 1858.

